



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

TENNESSEE FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: KAREN ALEXANDER
931.294.4107 (OFFICE)
800.747.8868 (TOLL FREE)

TENNESSEE'S TUFF-EST HEROES COMPETE AT ACADEMY

BELL BUCKLE – The Warriors Path Volunteer Fire Department and the Brentwood Fire Department strutted their TUFF stuff Saturday, as champions of the First Annual Tennessee Ultimate Fire Fighter Challenge, held at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy.

Firefighters in 19 teams from across the state took the TUFF Challenge, and hundreds of friends, family and supporters cheered them on as the relay teams raced through hose hoisting, climbing, victim rescue and other feats.

The TUFF Challenge, sponsored by the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association and the Tennessee Firemen's Association, celebrates the athleticism and training of Tennessee's fire fighters and kicks off Fire Prevention Month in October.

"This was a great event to honor our firefighters, show the spirit of our Tennessee fire service community, and to showcase the Academy," said Paula Flowers, Tennessee's Fire Marshal and the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance. "This is the kind of event in which everyone wins."

The festival atmosphere included demonstration booths, children's tours of the Murfreesboro Fire Department's Fire Safe House, a visit by Sparky the Fire Dog, coloring books and stickers courtesy of Sparky the Fire Dog.

The Challenge raised about \$5,000 toward the proposed state fire fighter memorial, now in the planning stages through the TFCA and TFA. Tennessee is one of the few remaining states that does not have a dedicated site in honor of its fallen firefighters.

Awards were given to the winning teams (listed below). The ultimate prize – other than bragging rights – is a "traveling axe" was awarded to the top finishers, both in the volunteer and paid firefighter category. The TUFF axe can be displayed at the winning department until the next annual TUFF contest.

"The TUFF Challenge was a huge success," stated Roger Hawks, the Academy's Executive Director. "These firefighters should be proud of themselves, not only for their team's success but for the part they each played in seeing the memorial take shape."

The Academy is located on 330 acres 15 miles south of Murfreesboro. The campus offers the latest in training technology, state-of-the-art equipment and a full spectrum of courses to emergency service first responders and to codes enforcement personnel.

2161 UNIONVILLE/DEASON ROAD
BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE 37020
931.294.4111

For media inquiries, contact Karen Alexander at 931.294.4111.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TEAMS AND EVENT TIMES

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 1ST PLACE** – Warriors Path Volunteer Fire Department / 2:17
2nd PLACE – Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department / 2:31
3rd PLACE – Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department / 2:43

District #8 Carroll County Volunteer Fire Department / 3:18
Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department / 2:51

PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 1st PLACE** - Brentwood Fire Department / 1:51
2nd PLACE – Cookeville City Fire Department / 1:59
3rd PLACE – Columbia Fire Department / 1:57 (run-off for 3rd)

Jackson Fire Department / 2:02
City of White House Fire Department / 2:01 (run-off for 3rd)
Smyrna Fire Department / 2:12
Murfreesboro Fire Department / 2:15
Harriman City Fire Department / 2:13
Bartlett Fire Department / 2:18
AEDC Fire Department / 2:29
Newport Fire Department / 2:10
Shelbyville Fire Department / 2:24
Clarksville Fire and Rescue / 2:12
Hendersonville Fire Department / 2:13

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